

District 45 art show takes place Friday at Willowbrook

The District 45 PTA Council will host its second annual student art show on Friday, April 10. The event will take place from 6:30-9:30 p.m. in the common area and auditorium of Willowbrook High School, 1250 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park.

The show will feature more than 200 pieces of art submitted by District 45 students. The evening will also include appetizers and performances from the district's student ensembles.

Priority registration for Mariners' 2015 season begins Saturday

The Villa Park Parks and Recreation Department's Villa Park Mariners swim team will hold priority registration for the 2015 season beginning on Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and on Wednesday, April 15, from 6-8 p.m. Both registration sessions will take place at the Iowa Community Center, located at 338 N. Iowa Ave.

Registration will not be accepted prior to the April 11 and April 15 sessions. Online registration will not be accepted.

Children ages five to 18 are welcome to join the Mariners, who compete in the DuPage Swim and Dive Conference. All swimmers must be able to swim one length of the pool using a legal swim stroke in order to participate. The pre-season practice schedule runs from May 26 to June 5, while the regular-season practice schedule takes place June 8 to July 17. Practices (held each weekday morning) and regular-season home meets take place at Jefferson Pool.

The season includes 11 meets—five on Wednesday evenings and five on Saturday mornings followed by a season-ending conference meet. It is recommended that beginning swimmers have previous swim lesson

experience prior to the start of the season.

The Mini Mariners is a team for swimmers ages 5 to 8 who do not have previous swim team experience. Swimmers can participate on this team for one season only. Practice will be held three times per week. Mini Mariners will compete in five home meets and are eligible to compete in one of the two conference meets. The Mini Mariners team is not a prerequisite for the Mariners swim team.

Fees for families who register in person during priority registration on April 11 and April 15 will be \$109 per child, \$99 per additional child and \$75 for Mini Mariners. Fees during open registration, which begins April 16, will be \$119 per child, \$109 per additional child and \$85 for Mini Mariners. In addition to receiving a discount during priority registration, swimmers who register during that period will have an opportunity to try on the team swim suit.

Representatives from the Mariners will be present during priority registration to answer questions and to provide further information. For more information about registering for the Mariners, call the Villa Park Parks and Recreation Department at 630-834-8970.

Fourth annual 'Tee Time at the Library' fundraiser this weekend

The Villa Park Public Library will hold its fourth annual Tee Time at the Library event on Saturday, April 11, and Sunday, April 12. This year's fundraiser includes a new adults-only event. That session, for adults 21 and older, will take place on Saturday from 7-10 p.m. Sunday's family session, which will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., is intended for all ages. The library is located at 305 S. Ardmore Ave.

Saturday's session for adults will feature themed mini-golf, music, appetizers and adult beverages. A \$25 ticket includes two beverage tokens and a variety of snacks. Additional tokens will be available. Entertainment will be provided by the Thom Mac Band.

Sunday's event, designated by the library as Family Fun Tee Time, will include mini-golf, a balloon artist, face painting and concessions. Admission for the family session will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

All of the funds raised from the library's Tee Time events will be directed toward a new early literacy initiative—1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. According to a news release issued by the library, research shows that when children are read to daily, their brains have a greater capacity for learning skills.

For more information about the Tee Time at the Library events, call 630-834-1164, or visit the library's Web site at www.vppl.info.

Registration is open for inaugural run/walk for Emilio Perez

The mail-in deadline is April 14, online registration ends April 19

The inaugural "While While You Walk/Run 5K for Emilio" will take place Sunday, April 26, outside of Willowbrook High School. The event, which will begin at 8 a.m., honors the memory of Emilio Perez, a member of Willowbrook's Class of 2015 who died one year ago.

Perez died in March 2014, one day after his 17th birthday. He was struck by a vehicle in a hit-and-run incident on Interstate 88 in

western Illinois.

All proceeds from the 5-kilometer run/walk will benefit the Emilio Perez Scholarship Fund, which will provide annual scholarships to Willowbrook seniors.

The deadline for mail-in registration for the upcoming event is April 14. The deadline for online registration is April 19. To register online, or to download a registration form, visit www.emilioperezfoundation.com.

Questions? Comments?

E-MAIL THE VILLA PARK REVIEW AT
vpreview@lbvpr.com

Deadline to apply for Villa Park Junior Women's Club scholarships is April 15

The Villa Park Junior Women's Club (VPJWC) is sponsoring a scholarship program to benefit female high school seniors who reside in Villa Park. The scholarships promote and reward students' involvement in a variety of community-service activities.

This year, the VPJWC is awarding two scholarships—one for \$1,500 and another for \$500. The winners will be chosen based on their applications and recommendations received. These scholarships are not awarded based on financial need.

The VPJWC will accept scholarship applications until Wednesday, April 15. For more information, or to apply online or download an application, visit <http://vpjwc.org/scholarship/>.

Spots for life-size Candy Land on April 25 are still available

There are still slots available for the Villa Park Parks and Recreation Department's life-size Candy Land event on Saturday, April 25. This year's presentation takes place from noon to 7 p.m. at the Iowa Community Center, located at 338 N. Iowa Ave. Players will go through the game in groups of four. Before they begin the game, children will take part in themed activities including making their own

lollipops and decorating cupcakes.

No walk-in registration will be accepted for the event, which costs \$7 per player. Registration must take place at the Iowa Community Center, which is open 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Friday.

Call the parks and recreation department at 630-834-8970 for more information.

Visit lbvpr.com for an update of the results from both of the Villa Park Village Board races in the April 7 election.

Nominees sought for 2015 Villa Park Senior of the Year

Nominations due by April 24; announcement planned for May 7

The Villa Park Senior Citizens Commission will host a senior fair from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Thursday, May 7, at the community recreation building at 320 E. Wildwood Ave. Seniors will hear about healthy eating and nutrition and have the opportunity to receive a shingles shot. The Villa Park Fire Department will provide blood-pressure checks at the fair, which will also include snacks and refreshments.

The senior fair will also feature the

announcement of the 2015 Villa Park Senior of the Year. Nominees must be residents of Villa Park who are at least 65 years old. Nominations, in 50 words or less, can be sent to Villa Park Village Hall, Attention: Senior Citizens Commission, 30 S. Ardmore Ave., Villa Park, IL 60181. Nominations can also be sent by e-mail to clerk@lbvpr.com.

All nominations must be received by April 24.

Military service...

AIRMAN SARAH HIBBELER (right) of Villa Park is serving on the U.S. Navy aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan. Hibbeler, a 2013 graduate of Willowbrook High School, is an Aviation Machinist's Mate. "My job is to pull apart and maintain jet engines," she stated. According to a news release from the U.S. Navy, nearly 3,000 men and women make up the ship's company, which keeps all parts of the aircraft carrier running smoothly. This includes everything from washing dishes and preparing meals to handling weaponry and maintaining the nuclear reactors. Another 2,000 or so form the air wing—the people who fly and maintain the aircraft. "The best part about being here is the people and the diversity," Hibbeler said. The carrier (pictured below) is nearly 1,100 feet long and about 250 feet wide. It weighs over 100,000 tons. Two nuclear reactors can push the ship through the water at nearly 35 mph. The ship carries more than 70 jets, helicopters and other aircraft, all of which take off and land on the 4.5-acre flight deck. After an extended maintenance period in San Diego, the carrier will head to Japan. "The benefits, education and travel are the things I enjoy most about serving in the Navy," said Hibbeler.



Sports

**LOMBARDIAN
VILLA PARK REVIEW**

Warriors' bats heat up in doubleheader sweep

The Willowbrook softball team is expecting a big season in 2015. This year's Warriors feature 12 seniors, including a trio of four-year varsity players who helped the team to 21 victories last season. The experienced team displayed heart and firepower in sweeping both games of Saturday's doubleheader at Hinsdale Central.

The Warriors trailed the Red Devils 4-0 after one inning of the first game before coming back to grab an 8-6 lead by the middle of the seventh inning. Hinsdale Central tied the score at 8-8 with a two-run homer in the bottom of the seventh inning. The Warriors scored a pair of runs in the top of the eighth inning on the way to

a 10-8 victory in clear, cold and windy conditions. Willowbrook completed the doubleheader sweep with an 8-5 win in the second game.

Saturday's pair of victories gave the Warriors a three-game winning streak and an overall record of 3-2. Willowbrook opened its season by losing both games of a doubleheader at West Chicago on March 30. The Warriors picked up their first win of the season on Friday, when they beat Riverside-Brookfield 4-0. Junior Zoe Dannenberg pitched the shutout for the Warriors. She allowed six hits and recorded four strikeouts. Senior Sam Schmidt had three hits, including a home run, and drove in three runs.

Seniors Cheyenne Brunig and Alex Kassal contributed three and two hits, respectively.

Senior Alyssa Ressinger sparked Willowbrook's offensive eruption in Saturday's first game with a two-run home run over the right-field fence in the third inning. The homer cut the Red Devils' lead to 4-3. The Warriors added one more run in the third inning to tie the game at 4-4. Hinsdale Central scored two runs in the fourth inning to take a 6-4 lead, but Willowbrook grabbed a 7-6 edge with three runs in the fifth inning. The Warriors took an 8-6 lead in the sixth inning when Dannenberg doubled off the left-field fence and scored on a single by Schmidt.

Ressinger singled to lead off the top of the eighth inning. She scored her fourth run of the game—what turned out to be the winning run—later in the inning on a single by senior Delaney Pelsor. Senior Erin Sporer bashed a double later in the inning to drive in senior Alex Kassal and close out the scoring in the opening game.

Dannenberg, who pitched a complete game in Saturday's opener, worked out of a bases-loaded, two-out jam in the bottom of the eighth inning. The game ended on a grounder to Schmidt at shortstop. She fired to Ressinger at first base to secure the victory.

Ressinger and Schmidt had three hits apiece in Saturday's first game. The Warriors collected a total of 17 hits in the opener.

"It feels good to be hitting well," said Ressinger following the first game of the doubleheader. "I feel like this game brought our confidence up as hitters. The energy was really good in the dugout and we all fed off of each other's hits and energy. That was a big part of the game."

"After that first inning, I'm really proud of the fact that we hung in there," said Willowbrook coach Rachel Karos after the extra-inning victory. "A lot of teams might fall hard after that. I'm proud of how everybody stood their ground."

Ressinger, Schmidt and Sporer have been members of the varsity since they were freshmen. Schmidt, who will play Division I softball at Northern Illinois University, pounded 16 homers last year, while Ressinger provided 10 homers. The 2014 Warriors posted a 21-11 overall record and lost an IHSA Class 4A regional final to Glenbard North.

"I think this is our year, and we're going to be very good," Ressinger said. When asked about the team's goals for the season, she said the Warriors are aiming to win the West Suburban Gold Conference title and claim a regional championship. The Warriors haven't won a regional softball title since 1993.

Dannenberg hit a solo home run to center field in the first inning of Saturday's second game. Schmidt had two hits and drove in two runs for the Warriors, who added one run in the third inning and three runs apiece in the fifth and sixth innings. Senior Cheyenne Brunig also contributed two hits and two RBIs. Pelsor lashed two hits and drove in one run. She also pitched all seven innings of the second game and earned her first victory of the season.

Willowbrook will begin its West Suburban Gold Conference schedule with an April 20 home game against Morton.



Warrior power...

Softball photos by Chris Fox

WILLOWBROOK JUNIOR Zoe Dannenberg (above) connects for a home run during the second game of Saturday's doubleheader at Hinsdale Central. The Warriors won the opener 10-8 in eight innings. They beat the Red Devils 8-5 in the second game. Senior shortstop Sam Schmidt (below) is pictured throwing to first base for the final out of the first game. Schmidt provided a total of five hits in the doubleheader.



Senior leader...

WILLOWBROOK SENIOR FIRST BASEMAN Alyssa Ressinger (above) helped her team win both games of Saturday's doubleheader at Hinsdale Central. Ressinger connected for three hits, including a two-run home run, in the Warriors' 10-8, eight-inning victory over the Red Devils in the first game. She had one hit and drove in one run in Willowbrook's 8-5 win in the second game. Saturday's two victories gave the Warriors three straight wins and an overall season record of 3-2.



VP Warriors win title...

THE VILLA PARK WARRIORS' 10-U boys basketball team (above) won the DuPage Youth Travel Basketball League (DYTBL) championship earlier this year. The team, which consists of boys in third and fourth grade, finished its season with an overall record of 20-3. Members of the team (pictured left to right) are: (front row) Ben Schwanke, Mike Cacciolo, Jimmy Burns, Joey Tumilty, Kade Fitzgerald and Brandon Rodriguez; (second row) Jimmy Degnan, Luke Ricchitti, Dominic Catalano and Tommy Van Daff; (back row) coaches Scott Tumilty, Bill Degnan, Kevin Fitzgerald and Dave Van Daff. The Villa Park Warriors are a feeder program for Willowbrook High School.



Rams compete at Toyota Park...

FOR THE SECOND YEAR IN A ROW, the Glenbard East girls soccer team (above) advanced to the championship match of Reavis High School's Windy City Classic. The first-place contest of the 32-team event takes place at Toyota Park in Bridgeview—the home of the Chicago Fire. The Rams defeated Joliet Central, IC Catholic Prep, Lincoln-Way West and Beecher to advance to this year's title match—a March 30 battle against Lincoln-Way East. For the second straight year, Lincoln-Way East edged the Rams. One year ago, the Griffins beat the Rams 1-0. This year's match was scoreless at the end of regulation and two overtime periods. Lincoln-Way East prevailed in a penalty-kick shootout. The loss sent the Rams' overall season record to 5-2. Three Rams—junior Brittany Paganucci, junior Holly Ward and sophomore Paige Taylor—were named to the event's all-tournament team. Glenbard East will begin its Upstate Eight Valley Conference schedule with this week's matches against Metea Valley and Neuqua Valley.

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'A Lie of the Mind' brings struggles

(From left) Willowbrook senior Erin Sulla, senior Jack Corkery, senior Alex Lapinski and freshman Genevieve Corkery perform a scene for Willowbrook's spring play, "A Lie of the Mind."

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Gaming Board reports over \$37,000 to Village in Jan., Feb.

By Dee Longfellow
For the Villa Park Independent

VILLA PARK — According to the Illinois Gaming Board, in January 2015, Villa Park had 14 facilities that offer video gaming at which customers spent a total \$4,849,293 playing, won a total of \$4,453,762, leaving \$395,531. Of that amount, \$98,883 went to the state of Illinois, while the Village of Villa Park realized \$19,776.

In February 2015, Villa Park had 14 establishments where gamers spent \$4,644,125 playing, winning \$4,291,884, leaving \$352,240. Of that, the state of Illinois received \$88,061, while Villa Park received \$17,612.

The total for the two months is \$37,388.

(All numbers are approximate, some were rounded up or down.)

Senior Concerns Commission to host Senior Fair

VILLA PARK — The Villa Park Senior Concerns Commission will host a Senior Fair on May 7 for senior citizens in our community where they can receive information and learn about various programs. The event will take place at the Community Recreation Building at 320 E. Wildwood Street in Villa Park. During the event, seniors will hear about healthy eating and nutrition, get a shingles shot, have their blood pressure checked by the Villa Park Fire Department and enjoy snacks and refreshments. A special feature will be the announcement of the 2015 Villa Park Senior of the Year. Nominees must be residents of Villa Park and 65 years or older. Nominations, in 50 words or less, can be sent to the Villa Park Village Hall; Attn: Senior Concerns Commission, 20 S. Ardmore Avenue or emailed to clerkkorynecky@invillapark.com.

Nominations must be received by April 24.



photo by Paul DeGuldice

Easter Egg-citement

The Segura family of Villa Park (including their dog Chispita) attended an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4 at Wilder Park in Elmhurst.

Theatre-goers praise Willowbrook's performance of 'A Lie of the Mind'

VILLA-PARK — On March 18 and 19, Willowbrook presented its spring play, "A Lie of the Mind."

According to dramatists.com, the show tells the story of two desperate families connected by the marriage of the son of one (Jake) to the daughter of the other (Beth).

As the play begins, Beth, brain damaged after an act of domestic violence by Jake, is being tended to by her parents, Baylor and Meg. Jake sends his brother, Frankie, to Montana to see whether Beth is alive, but Beth's father, mistaking Frankie for a poacher, shoots him in the leg and takes him prisoner. Thereafter, the tensions and enmities that motivate the two families grow increasingly disturbing and dangerous.

Frankie falls in love with

Beth, but her brother, Mike, is determined she no longer have anything to do with her husband or her husband's family. Meanwhile, the distraught, hysterical Jake (back home in California) is nursed by his possessive mother, Lorraine, and his sister, Sally. Having gotten Jake back from Beth, Lorraine is determined to keep him with her forever, but Jake soon recovers and sets out to regain his wife.

In the end, however, his will fails, and Beth stays with Frankie. Lorraine burns down her house and departs for Ireland with Sally, and Jake, bereft and alone, seeks communication with his deceased father by dispersing his father's ashes into the moonlight — hoping to find order and meaning in the present by coming to terms with the past.

"I had always wanted to direct this play," said Director Regina Wathier. "It wasn't a safe choice, and I wanted everyone to take a risk."

The cast and crew also competed in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Drama & Group Interpretation Sectional competition on March 21 and finished in 3rd place. Wathier said this was the second time Willowbrook competed in that event, and the team consisted of 55 students.

Senior Alex Lapinski played

Frankie, senior Jack Corkery played Jake, senior Olivia Baumann played Beth, junior Mariana Martens played Meg, freshman John DeAngelo played Baylor, junior Mathew Tantilla played Mike, freshman Genevieve Corkery played Sally and senior Erin Sulia played Lorraine.

"This show is filled with mature content and combines realism with expressionism," Wathier said. "It was definitely a challenge, but the team did an amazing job."

St. Alexander to host open house events

VILLA PARK — St. Alexander Catholic School at 136 So. Cornell in Villa Park will be holding two three open house events in April. They are Sunday, April 19 from 1:30-2:30 and from 6:45-7:45 p.m.; and on Saturday, April 25 from 2-3 p.m. interested persons are also invited to stop by any Thursday for a tour. For more information, contact Glenn Purpura at 630-834-3787 or via e-mail to glenpurpura@gmail.com.

Veenstra warns of budget crunch if governor's proposal passes

Urges residents to contact legislators, insist funds return to communities

By Dee Longfellow
For The Addison Independent

ADDISON Many municipalities are having the same conversation – what will happen if Gov. Bruce Rauner's proposal to withhold and keep the funds that are usually rebated to them?

“When the recession hit several years ago, it affected every business, citizen and taxing body.”

— Mayor Rich Veenstra

“Later this month, the Village Board will approve the budget for the new fiscal year, which begins May 1,” said Mayor Rich Veenstra in his column in the Village of Addison's eNewsletter which is available at Village web site. “Staff has worked very hard to responsibly carry out the vision established by the Board, and there are a great many projects and improvements that I'm sure the community will be excited about. I plan to give you a preview of that next month.”

“However, as we finalize this process, all Illinois municipalities right now are facing the possibility that the State will actually take away part of our revenue. The State Constitution allows for the State of Illinois to collect income tax on behalf of the municipalities; however, due to the State's own budget crisis, Gov. Bruce Rauner has proposed that the State keep half of that revenue for itself.”

In his column, Veenstra pointed out that the Local Government Distributive Fund was established so the state could collect income taxes then rebate the proper amount back to the individual community governments. It was never meant to be revenue for the state, the state simply collects it to simplify the process, rather than have municipalities collect it for themselves.

“When the recession hit several years ago, it affected every business, citizen, and taxing body. Everyone had to learn to make do with less,” Veenstra said. “The Village Board delayed projects, left staff positions open, and cut spending, while still attempting to provide the same services to our residents.”

“Unfortunately, as we have all heard in the news, the State was not nearly so frugal.”

Veenstra's point is well taken – this revenue does not belong to the state, it belongs to the municipalities. Gov. Rauner wants the state to keep this \$600 million for itself to solve its own financial problems. If the measure passes and cities have to do without their expected revenues, most will have to choose between cutting services or raising taxes.

“In either case, it is our residents who will suffer,” Veenstra affirmed. “For Addison, this money grab would mean \$1.75 million out of our budget. That is a substantial amount and would mean extremely difficult decisions would need to be made.”

He and other mayors and village presidents are working hard with DuPage Mayors and Managers and Illinois Municipal League to bring those concerns to Springfield.

“I would also ask our residents to do so as well,” he urged. “Please visit ProtectMyTown.com, which will help you to contact your legislators to let them know that you do not want the state to shift its problems on to us.”

M3 Dance donates to Marklund Foundation

Local dance company pays it forward

BLOOMINGDALE — M3 Dance, the non-for-profit dance company housed at Mohler Dance Academy, recently presented a \$600 donation to Marklund Day School in Bloomingdale.

On Sunday, March 8, M3 Dance Company held its annual concert featuring some of Chicagoland's top choreographers and guest performances



Addison Trail students rehearse a scene from the school's upcoming spring play, “The Curious Savage.” They are (from left) junior Michael Grojec, freshman Danielle Cusumano, junior Heidi Scheleski and senior Michael Amadeo. The play will take place from April 9 to 11.

Addison Trail to present spring play, ‘The Curious Savage’

ADDISON — From April 9 to 11, Addison Trail will present its spring play, “The Curious Savage.”

The comedic play tells the story of Ethel Savage, a woman whose husband recently died and left her \$10 million. Her stepchildren want to use the money for selfish reasons and for their own benefit, so she buries the money to keep it from them. Frustrated with her

actions, the stepchildren have Savage committed to a sanatorium in hopes she will “come to her senses.”

The show contrasts the kindness and loyalty of the patients in the sanatorium with the vanity of “respectable” public figures.

“A former Addison Trail student suggested this play, and I knew it would be the perfect spring comedy,” said Direc-

tor Anna Jakubka. “It’s a cute, funny show.”

Junior Heidi Scheleski plays Savage and said audience members can look forward to a lot of laughs and jokes throughout the play.

Senior Hannah Yurek plays Fairy May, a patient Savage befriends at the sanatorium. Yurek said it’s bittersweet to take the stage at Addison Trail for the last time.

“Being involved with theatre at Addison Trail during my four years here has taught me the importance of perseverance,” Yurek said. “I’ve learned that if you work hard and stay dedicated, you’ll eventually get the roles you want.”

“The Curious Savage” will be performed on April 9, 10 and 11 at 7 p.m.; and at 1 p.m. on April 11 at Addison Trail High School. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and children ages 3 to 12, \$3 with an Activity Pass and are free with a District 88 Senior Gold Card. To buy tickets, call 630-628-3365, or e-mail at theatre88@gmail.com.

by professional dance companies. The event covered various dance styles including ballet, modern, tap, jazz, contemporary, hip hop and African.

In addition to performing, M3 Dance donated a portion of ticket sales to Marklund in Bloomingdale, an organization serving infants, children, teens and adults with serious and profound developmental disabilities and special healthcare needs.

On Saturday, March 7, M3 Dancers had the opportunity to

tour the facility and meet some of the residents. The dancers were shown where their contribution monies would be utilized.

“The experience really brought home the importance of their efforts in giving back to the community, which is one of the primary tenets of the M3 Dance organization,” said Tressa Mohler, director of M3 Dance.

For more information, contact Mohler Dance Academy at 630-893-1444.

The Don of A New Day in Sports

Game of the Century Ends in a Tie

That's right, folks, the first Celebrity Don of Sports versus The Addison All-Stars basketball game ended in a 68-68 tie. With the likes of Robin Earl (former Chicago Bear football player), Dean Stathopoulos, Bruce Flowers (Notre Dame basketball), The Messina boys, Jim Fierro, and The Independents.

Mike Sandrolini fought back from being 20 points down to tie the game. The Addison All-Stars with Addison Trail graduates: Corey Little, Stephanie Messina, Rachel and Marie Baumgartner, Jeff and Ron Welkmer, Dan Rohlfing, and Head Varsity football Coach Paul Parpet Jr. Not to mention Eric Miller, who dominated the



DON FIGARELLI

game for three quarters.

A special thanks to our sponsors: SWD Corp, Humes Funeral Home, Joe Educate, Gelato D'oro, John Figarelli, Sol Lombardo, Mike Sandrolini and the crowd was entertained by Ophelia Grey.

To reach Don Figarelli, call 630-530-7061.

District 4 schools, Rotary Club to host breakfast for seniors

ADDISON — Addison School District 4 and the Rotary Club of Addison invite area seniors to enjoy a free Spring Breakfast on Monday, April 20 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Wesley School, 1111 W. Westwood Trail in Addison.

The annual event includes breakfast followed by musical entertainment provided by Wesley School students and the Indian Trail Junior High School Jazz Ensemble. Because of limited parking available at the school, District 4 also invites its guests to enjoy a ride to Wesley School on a school bus. Bus transportation will be provided from Community Park, 130 E. Oak Street, leaving at 9:15 a.m., and returning from Wesley School around 11 a.m.

Reservations are encouraged. To reserve a spot or for more information, please call 630-458-2429 or email djunokas@asd4.org.

• CALENDAR

Continued from page 10

• Addison Park District open gym

The Park District will be having an open gym for all ages from 3-5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and from 6-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays at the Centennial Rec Center gymnasium. Fees: \$2.50 for children in eighth grade and younger on regular days, or \$4 for extended days and weekends; \$3 for ages high school and older on regular days, or \$5 on extended days and weekends. Info: go to addisonparks.org or call 630-233-7275.

• Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) meet each month

Widows or Widowers (W.O.W.) of the Western Suburbs will meet on the third Thursday of each month and

has a variety of social activities. The meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 537 S. York Road, Elmhurst, starting at 6:30 p.m. Admission: \$5. Info: (630) 620-4060 or www.cfsites.org.

• Active Adults Senior Club

Adults, ages 55 or better, are invited to Park District's Active Adults Senior Club on Tuesdays from 12-2 p.m. at Community Rec Center, 120 E. Oak Street. For more information, contact Teresa Grodsky at (630) 233-7275, option #2.

Clubs and organizations are welcome to send entries for this column to: QuestPublishing@aol.com. Please include a phone number or e-mail address to contact for information.

Addison Trail boys volleyball team ready to roll

Blazers return many experienced players from 33-win squad

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail boys volleyball team went 33-5 overall last year and 5-1 in West Suburban Conference Gold Division play.

That's exciting in itself. But even more exciting is the fact the Blazers return eight players from that squad, including five starters.

"We will be a very experienced team," said Addison Trail coach Chad Grant. "We have strong passers, middles that know how to get the job done and one of the best offensive players in the state in Alex Dickmann."

Dickmann is a 6-4 senior right-side hitter who earned all-WSC Gold accolades last year. He's headed to Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne (IPFW) next year to continue his career.

Also back are seniors Jack Vrchota (6-4, MB), Zach Vaca (5-10, OH), Jonny Valentini (6-0,

OH) and Joey Nasti (6-3, setter), along with junior Kannon Nelms (6-3, MB).

"Zach will move from libero to outside," noted Grant. "He is still learning but he has a cannon for an arm. Joey will take over setting duties this year. Jonny always has been a solid back-row player but has really improved his attacking in the offseason."

Addison Trail headed into the season with plenty of offensive firepower. "We have one of the best offensive players in the state in Alex," said Grant. "We also have middles who are powerful and make good decisions. Our outsides are undersized, but have great ball control. Alex opens up a lot of holes for other players because teams have to key in on him. He also can be unstoppable even if they know the ball is going to him."

Grant noted Nasti will be out until mid-April while recovering from an injury.

"Joey brings us some size and is accurate with the ball. He does a nice job of getting the middles involved," he said. "Kevin Andrews, a defensive special-

ist, will run the show until Joey gets back. He is working hard to make sure we don't skip a beat without Joey. The boys understand there are no excuses."

A key newcomer to the team is 5-7 sophomore libero Arlind Rojba. "Rojba doesn't play like a sophomore," said Grant. "He always brings the energy and will be one of our leaders on the court."

Grant likes the potential the team has on first touches. "Serving and serve-receive are the strengths right now, which is good because those are first-contact skills. Our goal is that defense will be the strength by the end of the year. I like our speed and potential on defense. We aren't there yet, but I like where we can get to."

Blocking will be a key for the Blazers this season.

"We need to improve our blocking and defend like we are capable of if we are going to compete with the best teams in the state," said Grant.

Addison Trail has won five regionals in the last seven years.

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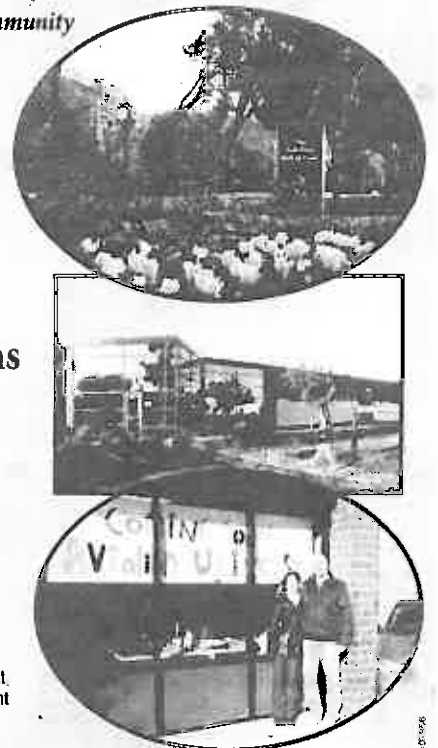
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SPORTS

APRIL 9, 2015 • 18

Addison Trail boys gymnastics team loaded with big-meet talent

Blazers return four state qualifiers

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

When the lights were shining the brightest last year, the Addison Trail boys gymnastics team was well-represented.

The Blazers return four state qualifiers from a 2014 team that placed third in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division behind Willowbrook and Downers Grove South.

Back are seniors Daniel Baeza (floor, bars, vault), R.J. Infusino (rings) and Alfredo Torres (floor, horse, vault bars, horizontal bar), along with junior Marcus Rias (all-around). Baeza qual-

ified for state on vault, while Infusino went to state for rings. Torres made state on vault, as did Rias.

"We have a number of athletes who have difficult routines and have the potential to score very well this year," said Addison Trail coach Mike Galfi. "There are four state qualifiers returning and we have a few individuals who are up and coming and could make a major impact on the varsity squad as the season continues."

Sophomore Alex Kominowski is a key newcomer to the team.

"Alex competed on the freshman and JV levels last year," said Galfi. "Over the summer, he worked tremendously hard and has started the season with a new high-level skill set. I anticipate him qualifying on mul-

tiples events this year including floor and vault."

Infusino also has made major strides. "R.J. spent the summer working on his ring routine and now has a start value of 10.0," said Galfi. "I believe he is one of the strongest gymnasts in the state. If we can improve his form and his technique on his swing, I hope to have R.J. standing on the podium during the state finals."

Floor and vault will be the Blazers' two key calling cards this spring. "By the end of the year I hope to have all three counting scores on floor with double backs and double fulls," said Galfi. "Our vault will consist of the entire team with flipping vaults (either tsuks or handspring fronts). I hope to send multiple gymnasts to state on

these events.

Vault with consistent of the entire team with flipping vaults (either tsuks or handspring fronts). We hope to send multiple gymnasts to state in these events."

Galfi loves the atmosphere in the practice gym. "These guys work tremendously hard every day in the gym," he said. "They are great people and care deeply about each other and the direction of the team."

Galfi said Willowbrook is the team to beat in the conference. "Willowbrook is ranked third in the state," he said recently. "Our team will be contending for second place in the conference."

Addison Trail faces Leyden in a WSC Gold meet Thursday.

Youthful Addison Trail softball team gaining experience quickly

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail softball team is in the midst of a youth movement.

"Youth is being served this year," said Addison Trail coach Mark Olson. "It's been a little baptism by fire."

Addison Trail opened the season with non-conference losses to Montini and Glenbard West.

"We have a good number of younger players this year," said Olson, who noted the team was short-handed early in the season due to several players participating in a school band trip in Florida and another who was out ill. "We've been trying to get by early on. But these younger girls have done extremely well. It's a different year than last year. Last year we were dominated by four seniors

who were very solid players. This year we're asking younger players to take on leadership roles. It's a different situation. It's group that is nice and fun to be around. It's exciting to get back to basics and coach them."

Addison Trail is coming off a 2014 season where it went 20-15.

Back for the Blazers are seniors Ari Renc (CF), Alex DiSilvio (1B), Kelly Delawder (LF) and Rachel Baumgartner (SS-P). Renc and Delawder are three-year starters and Baumgartner is a three-year returner as well. Renc earned all-West Suburban Conference Gold Division honors last year.

"The seniors have been around a long time, but haven't been asked to take on a leadership role before this year," said Olson. "Now we are asking different things from them."

Junior three-year player Carla Muell (C) also is back. She was an all-WSC Gold pick as well last year.

"Carla is very experienced and we're asking her to do something new this year," said Olson.

Junior Nicolette Napoli is back in right field this year. "Nicolette played as a sophomore last year and did a fantastic job for us," said Olson. "Her improvement is fantastic to see

as a coach. This is a girl who grabbed on to what we're doing and bought into the system."

Alyssa McMahan also is back (1B-P).

Newcomers to the team include Jessica Bach (3B), Marie Baumgartner (OF) and Alyssa Pham (OF).

"It's going to be a teaching and learning year," said Olson. "We might take some lumps early, but like they say it's not where you start, it's where you finish. We'll see what we have here early on and the girls will have a chance to shine and get some good experience. I think we are going to do some good things as the season goes on."

Girls badminton team takes second at own invite

Freshman Mutia wins No. 4 singles title

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Addison Trail girls badminton team recently placed second at its own Addison Trail Invitational.

Mary Grave Mutia won the No. 4 singles title, while Izy Kantor was third at No. 1 singles. Kinga Kazcowska was third at No. 2 singles, while Becky Falash was third at No. 3 singles.

The No. 3 doubles team of Pam Kobezko and Kamila Tychonowicz also took third.

Senior Alyssa Lombardo also returns for the Blazers (fourth as a team in the West Suburban Gold in 2014) at No. 2 singles. Kazcowska and Falash will play No. 1 doubles, while seniors Danni Gonzalez and

Rachel Schneider will play No. 2 doubles.

Mutia, a freshman, will play in the No. 8-10 singles range this season.

"Keep an eye on Mary Grace," said Addison Trail coach Eric Norberg. "She is an extremely talented young player. She doesn't realize how good she is and how good she can be."

Norberg said the team's strengths include its senior players, strong leadership and the hard work the group puts in.

Norberg said the Blazers will be strong in the singles division this spring. "We have an athletic team that likes to run and can cover and utilize the whole court," he said.

Kantor and Lombardo both are three-year varsity players. Norberg called them athletic and smart players and also cited their strong work ethics. "They are fun to coach," he said.

Potential high for boys gymnastics team

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Willowbrook boys gymnastics coach John Wronkiewicz heaped some big praise on his squad recently.

"This is the most talented team we have coached in our years at Willowbrook," he said. "We have a great group of hard-working gentlemen."

In addition to the hard work the team is putting in, Wronkiewicz pointed to the team's closeness as another major strength.

Our team is very bonded and has a strong sense of family," he said. "It is this bond that the team draws strength from. The guys take great pride in the unity they have and use it in practice and meets. I like the unity and sense of family with this team. The guys want to help each other and help the team in any way they can. As a coach, you can't ask for anything more than that."

Wronkiewicz said the team will thrive on horse and horizontal bar. "We have three state level gymnasts on each of these events and these events are where most teams tend to struggle," he said.

Standout senior Keawe Winstead is back after an injury-plagued junior year. "Keawe has made great progress in coming back from injuries suffered last season," said Wronkiewicz. "He is back to doing all-around again and is looking to have a successful senior year."

Sophomore Bailey Heppner also will be counted on. "Bailey also has made great progress in gymnastics," said Wronkiewicz. "He is only a sophomore and had no experience before last season. He has picked up the sport very well."

Heppner recently took third on parallel bars at the York sophomore invitational.

Wronkiewicz is hopeful the team will avoid the injury bug this season. "We need to stay healthy," he said. "If we can do that then we have a bright future."

Downers Grove South is the defending WSC Gold champion.

"We have a very talented group this year and figure to be well in the mix of things," said Wronkiewicz.

Willowbrook heads to Downers Grove South for a key WSC Gold meet Thursday.

Willowbrook boys volleyball team splits first two matches

Setter King a major key for Warriors

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook boys volleyball team opened the 2015 season by splitting a pair of non-conference matches.

The Warriors downed Elgin Larkin 25-3, 25-15 and lost to Glenbard East 25-12, 25-16.

"The Glenbard East match-up gave us a great look into the things we need to improve upon as a team to move to the next level," said Willowbrook coach Ryan Bazon.

Willowbrook went 15-20 overall last year and finished in fourth place in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division with a 3-3 record. Last year's team featured one senior and 12 juniors.

"We return a number of starters," said Bazon.

WSC Gold all-conference senior setter Tommy King (5-10) is back along with classmates Ryan Wakely (6-2, outside hitter) and Liam Atkins (6-3, middle blocker). King had 516 assists last year, while Wakely had 245 kills and Atkins had 107 kills and 72 blocks.

Key newcomers to the team

include juniors Ian Walsh (6-5, middle blocker) and Joe Ernst (6-1, outside hitter).

"We are returning a number of players with varsity experience from last year," said Bazon. "These players have continued to grow physically and athletically, and we look to build on our season last year. I also think having a returning setter and starter in Tommy King will be a great advantage to our younger guys as they move into varsity competition. He brings a lot of positive leadership to our team and program. He has a great desire to be the best he can be and that is infectious to

the players around him. I look forward to watching Tommy continue to grow as a player and person."

Bazon is encouraged by the progress being made on both sides of the net. "I feel like our offensive game can be very effective if our passing is on," he explained. "We have very strong and smart hitters at all positions. One of our goals is to continue working to become more efficient at all positions. Defensively I feel the guys are very strong at the net. We hope to put a lot of pressure on opposing hitters with our block. We need to continue to work hard in

practice on our blocking."

Bazon mentioned Downers Grove South and Addison Trail as two teams to beat in the WSC Gold.

"Both coaches do a great job at those schools putting a very competitive team on the floor," said Bazon. "I think we will fall somewhere in the middle again. The thing I like most about our team is our continued desire to improve on the court. Our players do not want to settle for mediocrity and that comes from the leadership of our seniors."

Willowbrook heads to the Gurnee Warren Invitational Friday.

Fenton boys volleyball team making strides

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

Hustle is one trait that can't be taught.

And the Fenton boys volleyball team has it in abundance.

"These boys never give up on the ball," said Fenton coach Heather Petersen.

That hustle will help a Bison squad that is coming off a 2014 season where it went 4-11 overall in non-tournament contests.

Back for Fenton are seniors Joel Alcantara (libero) and Alexis Mendoza (outside hitter/setter). Newcomers to the team include sophomores Javier

Sanchez (outside hitter), David Gutierrez (middle blocker) and Michael Wiszowaty (setter).

Petersen said other team strengths this season include improved passing and team chemistry.

"We have a very young and inexperienced team, but they work hard every day," she said. "They are improving every practice and are taking the steps to where we need to be."

Petersen noted that improved passing will help the team move forward. "I like how they truly believe passing is the foundation of the game," she said. "They hit the floor for balls and aren't afraid to take appropriate chances."

Wiszowaty will help the Bison at the setter position. "Michael has good hands," said Petersen. "He works very hard at his position and is learning the game more each day. He is one of the hardest working players on the team and is a very positive leader."

Mendoza will help the team at multiple positions. "Alexis also has good hands," said Petersen. "He is very quick and can get to a lot of balls. He also plays outside depending on the game. We would like to develop him in one position, but our team isn't at that point yet."

Petersen has been impressed by the chemistry among the players. "They are invested

in volleyball and have great team chemistry," the coach said. "They are always willing to work hard and learn. Each player wants to do what is best for the team, not necessarily as an individual."

Petersen is looking for more positives as the season wears on.

"This year will probably start off slow, but I foresee after the first couple games that the boys will make tremendous improvements in their games," she said. "We lack experience in the game so that sets us behind a little. The boys are smart and they take feedback well so we feel they will make adjustments quickly."

Willowbrook girls badminton team opens season strong

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls badminton team kicked off its season recently by finishing second at the 10-team Shepard Invitational.

The team of Brooke Bimber and Sydney Planz won the No. 1 doubles title, while Ally Kelley and Haley Patel won the No. 2 doubles crown. Nesa Banushi was second at No. 3 singles, while the team of Meghan Foley and Taylor Ratkovich took third at No. 3 singles. Marisa Martinez was fourth at No. 1 singles, while Grace Chantos was fifth at No. 2 singles.

Willowbrook has a number of key contributors back from last year's team that finished second in the West Suburban Conference Gold Division and also won a sectional team championship.

Bimber, a senior, finished in the Top 12 in the state last year and is a two-time state qualifier. Planz also is a returning state qualifier. Kelly and Patel were all-conference performers a year ago, while Martinez is a returning varsity starter.

"Leadership will be a strength," said Willowbrook coach Brandon Murphy. "We have six returning varsity girls

from last year's team that won the sectional title. They are doing a great job of bringing up the level of play of our newcomers. Brooke and Sydney, our captains, lead by example every day and show the girls what it means to be a varsity Warrior badminton player. Willowbrook has a strong tradition in badminton and this team wants to leave its mark."

Chantos (sophomore), Banushi (junior), Foley (junior) and Ratkovich (junior) are newcomers along with senior Liana Pavese (No. 8 singles), junior Alex Klepacki (No. 9 singles), senior Husna Syeda (No. 5 doubles) and senior Dalia Cruz (No. 5 doubles).

Murphy said doubles was a strength of the team heading into the season.

"As of right now we are stronger in doubles, but the singles players are developing nicely," he said. "Our doubles teams are led by four senior girls who have a lot of varsity experience. Brooke and Sydney, our No. 1 team, both are returning state qualifiers in doubles, but had different partners last year. They both are very strong players and are getting better every day playing together. I feel they

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Girls track team produces positives heading into outdoor season

Powell wins conference indoor shot-put title

By Mike Miazga
Correspondent

The Willowbrook girls track team left behind the recent indoor season with some good memories.

Junior Shantel Powell won the West Suburban Conference

Gold Division indoor title in the shot put with a throw of 35-9.

"That was a huge improvement for Shantel over last year," said Warriors coach Clyde Ware. "She's doing very well. Qualifying for state is 37 and change so she is close."

Jocelyn Rodriguez placed second at the conference meet in the 1,600.

Now, the Warriors are gearing up for the outdoor season.

"Outdoors is what everybody looks forward to," said Ware. "You look to see where you are and see how competitive you are at conference, sectionals and hopefully state. Everybody is excited to get outside and see what they are capable of doing. Outdoors you add the discus and the different hurdle events. There is more of a variety of things to do outdoors. For us the big things are conference, sectionals and state.

We want to have as many girls as possible at the state meet. We have some pretty talented underclassmen on the team. We're very excited to watch them develop."

Junior Shannon Jones will be a key contributor for the Warriors in the 800 this spring. "Shannon is doing well," said Ware. "She has the goal of qualifying for state. She's a hard worker."

Senior Stefania Enescu will aid the squad with her efforts in the hurdles. "Stefania is one of our team leaders," said Ware.

Ware said the Warriors are strong in a variety of areas. "Shot put and the discus look good for us and our quarter milers are doing well," said Ware. "Some of our freshmen show promise."

Ware said Downers Grove South is the team to beat in the WSC Gold. "Downers Grove South is very tough," he said. "All the teams in the conference have talented girls."

Downers South won the indoor conference title with Morton finishing second ahead of Hinsdale South and Willowbrook.

Willowbrook's first home meet is this Saturday.

"We have a very good group here. They are strong and they are very funny. They show great promise. It's a good group to work with. They have good chemistry between them and they work well together. They get along and look out for each other, which is very nice to see. We'll hope for the best and keep pushing forward. Hopefully everybody comes together and rises to the occasion. If we do that we'll improve as a team and improve our chances to be successful at conference, sectionals and state."

"We have a very good group here. They are strong and they are very funny. They show great promise."

— Coach Clyde Ware

• BADMINTON

Continued from page 19

can compete with anyone in the state. I can't wait to see them reach their goals.

"Our second doubles team of Ally and Haley played together last year and won a conference title. They are playing up two positions this year and are doing a great job adjusting to the higher level of competition."

Martinoz is making strides as well at No. 1 singles.

"Marisa is a very talented young lady and is adjusting very well to playing against the state's best players," said Murphy. "She is going to get better every week."

Murphy sees a competitive landscape in the WSC Gold.

"I believe this is going to be a very competitive year in the conference," said Murphy. "The front-runner is Hinsdale South. They are returning a quality team again and should be one of the best teams in the state. We will learn a lot about where we stand in the state after we play them. Downers Grove South also is returning a lot from last year's young team. They will be very com-

petitive this year. They have some really powerful girls on their squad. I believe we are right in the hunt. We have been second in conference for a long time and this team is working hard to try to change that."

Murphy sees plenty of potential in this year's group.

"This team knows it has a lot of talent, but they aren't just relying on it," he said. "They are an extremely hard-working group that is driven and truly wants to accomplish their goals. It is evident every day by the way they practice. In order to be able to compete with the top teams in the state this year, each girl has to continue to push themselves and develop into the players each of them can be. I believe this team can potentially be one of the best teams Willowbrook has put on the court. There is strong leadership from our seniors and our newcomers are very talented. If the team continues to work hard and develops the way I believe it can, we have the ability to put up a lot of points in Charleston at the state tournament."

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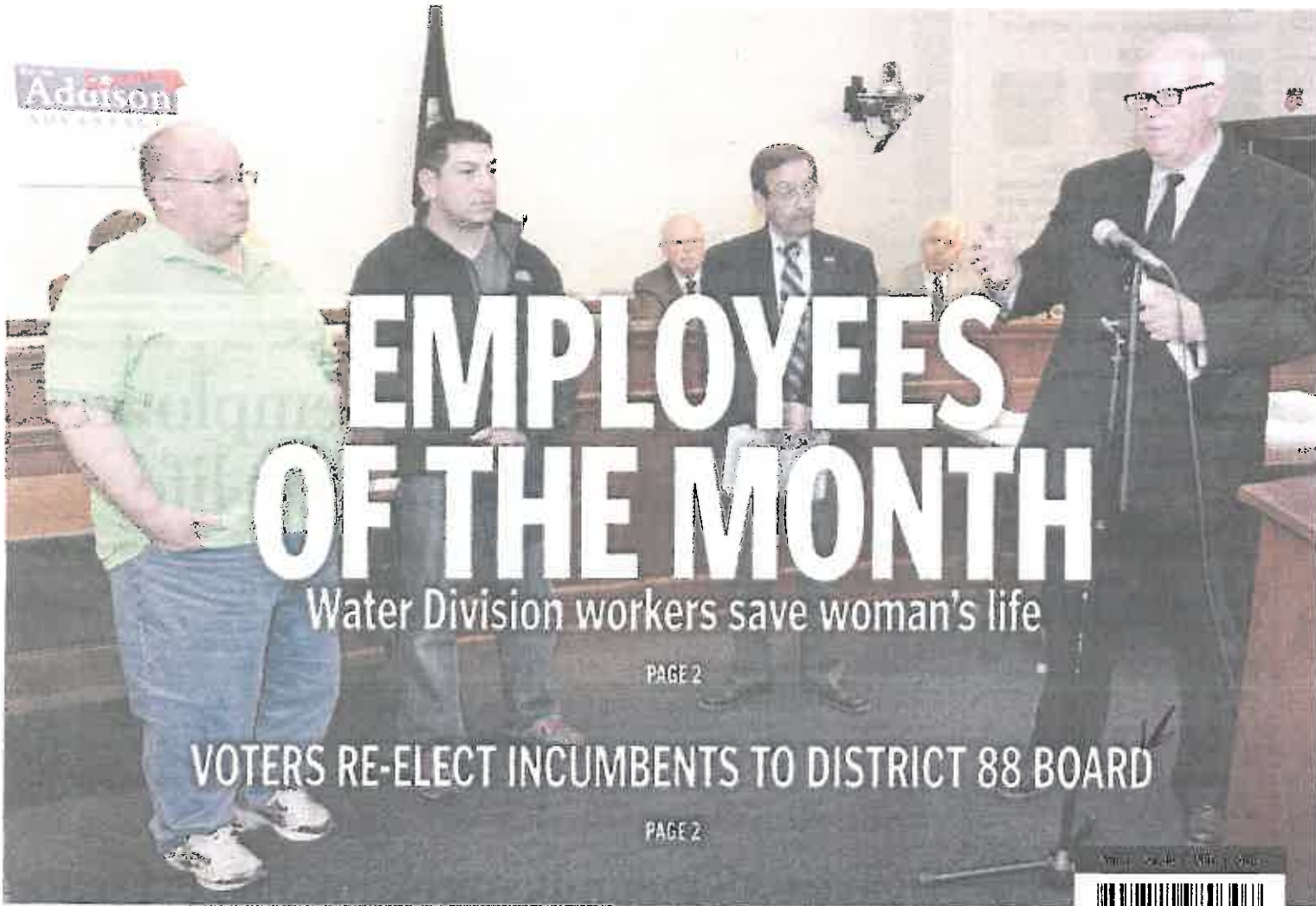


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Addison Suburban Life (USPS #739-390) is published weekly and delivered to homes by Shaw Media, 1101 W. 31st St., Suite 100, Downers Grove, IL 60515. Periodical postage paid at Downers Grove, IL, and at additional mailing offices. Refund policy: Subscribers may cancel subscriptions within 45 days of first delivery. Refunds will be prorated. No refunds after 45 days. Postmaster: Send address corrections to Shaw Media, 1101 W. 31st St., Suite 100, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Subscription rates

Single copy \$1.50
Delivery (annual) \$40/\$79 out of area

ON THE COVER

Addison Water Division workers Robert Davis (from left) and Hugo Perez are recognized Monday by Addison Mayor Rich Veenstra and Public Works Director Mitch Patterson after they saved a woman's life using CPR.

Bill Ackerman - backerman@shawmedia.com



Bill Ackerman - backerman@shawmedia.com

During an Addison Village Board meeting Monday, Chris Casper (left) of American Legion Post 1969 presents a certificate commending Addison Water Division workers Robert Davis (second from right) and Hugo Perez (right) after they saved a woman's life using CPR.

Addison recognizes employees who saved woman's life

By **MARY BETH VERSACI**
mversaci@shawmedia.com

ADDISON – March 9 will not soon be forgotten by two village of Addison employees – or the family of the woman whose life they helped to save.

Water Division workers Robert Davis and Hugo Perez were replacing a reader connected to a water meter outside a home at Iowa and Wrightwood avenues when a woman pulled over in a vehicle and called for help.

Her mother was unresponsive.

The men pulled the mother out

of the vehicle, and Davis performed CPR.

"You don't really think about it," Davis said. "You just go."

After receiving CPR, the woman came back quickly, Perez said.

Addison emergency responders were quick to arrive on the scene and took over caring for the woman when they did.

The two men were recognized as employees of the month at Monday's Addison Village Board meeting. They also received recognition from American Legion Post 1969.

While they said it was nice to be honored for their efforts, it's taken a while to hit home that they helped save someone's life.

"This is what a community is really about," Addison Mayor Rich Veenstra said at the meeting.

During the meeting, Davis's 13-year-old daughter, Emma, was busy recording the presentation to show to her two younger sisters who couldn't be there. Afterward, she had one word to describe how she felt about what her dad did.

"Proud."

District 88 incumbents claim 3 board seats

By **MARY BETH VERSACI**
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The DuPage High School District 88 Board of Education will have some familiar faces on it when new terms begin, based on the unofficial results of Tuesday's election.

Incumbents Sharon Kucik, Lisa Lullo and Timothy Gillen were all re-elected with 22.9 percent, 21.5 percent and 19.6 percent of the vote, respectively, according to preliminary numbers.

They will be joined by newcomer Jan Donovan, who garnered 21.2 per-

VOTE 2015 ELECTION RESULTS

cent of the votes.

Challenger Blanca Jessen fell short of claiming one of the four open board seats with 14.8 percent.

Kucik's plans now that she's been re-elected include continuing the course the board has been taking, with a particular focus on fiscal responsibility, she said.

"Keep things going the way they've

been going for the past years," Kucik said.

With the possibility of state funding cuts looming, Gillen said the district will have to be judicious with its expenses.

Donovan shared a similar outlook to the incumbents, saying the district will have to look at ways to provide the same services at a lower cost.

He said he'd do his best to make sure the people who voted for him would be happy they did and those who didn't would wish they did.

Lullo and Jessen could not be reached for comment.

SOFTBALL PREVIEW

AT, IC looking to repeat 20-win season, Trojans skew young

By DAN SANTAROMITA
dsantaromita@shawmedia.com

The high school softball season is in full swing with teams in the area already having several games under their belts. Here's what to expect for Addison Trail, IC Catholic and Timothy Christian as the season unfolds:

Addison Trail Blazers

Coach: Mark Olson
2014 record: 20-15

Top players

NAME	YEAR	POSITION
Rachel Baumgartner	sr.	IF/P
Alex DiSilvio	sr.	IF
Kelly Delawder	sr.	OF
Carla Muell	jr.	C
Nicolette Napoli	jr.	OF
Ari Renc	sr.	CF

Outlook: The Blazers return six players from last year but will need someone to step up at pitcher in order to post another winning record.

AT won 20 games last year and Crystal Marinelli, now playing for Elmhurst College, was a huge part of that as a two-way player.

The Blazers, who were 3-4 entering Thursday's scheduled game against Hoffman Estates, only return 15 percent of their innings pitched from last spring.

Junior and varsity newcomer Alyssa McMahan and senior two-way player Rachel Baumgartner will share pitching duties.

Offensively, there is more back with senior center fielder Ari Renc, a two-time all-conference player, leading the way. Seniors Kelly Delawder, Alex DiSilvio and Baumgartner and junior Carla Muell have multiple years of varsity experience.

In addition to McMahan, senior Natalie Palermo and sophomores Marie Baumgartner and Jessica Bach are notable newcomers.

"Our hope is to be competitive and continue to make strides as a program," head coach Mark Olson said. "This is my third season as coach and each year the girls in the program have made strides on and off the field. ... The year prior to taking over, the team had won three games and we have won 11 and 20, respectively. As a program, we want to earn the respect of our opponents."

IC Catholic Knights

Coach: Frank Reaber
2014 record: 21-16 (regional champs)

Top players

NAME	YEAR	POSITION
Jessica Conenna	sr.	P
Gabby Curran	sr.	SS
Anjella Farmer	jr.	1B
Melissa Gonzalez	jr.	C

Outlook: Northern Illinois-recruit Jessica Conenna leads the way for the Knights as a star two-way player.

Last spring Conenna had 198 strikeouts and a 2.32 ERA in the circle and batted .570 with 37 RBIs.

She is one of eight returners on the roster. Senior shortstop Gabby Curran hit .496 last year and junior catcher Melissa Gonzalez hit .396 while playing solid defense.

Senior Lindsey Montoya, juniors Taylor Salvi, Vanessa Godinez and Kasey Carver and sophomore Kaitlyn Falduto also are back. Freshman Josie Lytton joins the lineup.

After winning the program's first regional since 2003 last year, the Knights are looking for more while adapting to the new Metro Suburban West conference.

"After a disappointing ending last year, the girls have a goal of going downstate," coach Frank Reaber said. "We are the smallest school in the new conference, which should help challenge us and get us ready for a deep run in the playoffs."

Timothy Christian Trojans

Coach: Aaron Moore
2014 record: 6-22

Top players

NAME	YEAR	POSITION
Kaitlyn Gehrke	sr.	1B
Emily Gifford	so.	P/IF
Hope Zastrow	so.	C/3B

Outlook: The Trojans debuted March 19 against Nazareth, a 10-0 loss, but didn't play again until Tuesday against Walther Christian.

Second-year coach Aaron Moore has a tough task ahead with just one senior on the roster. That senior, Kaitlyn Gehrke, is a standout athlete in three sports for Timothy. She returns at first base.

Sophomores Emily Gifford and Hope Zastrow are key returners. Gifford will pitch and play the infield.

Despite the young group, Moore hopes the team can make a strong first impression in the new Metro Suburban East.

"Our goal is win our side of the conference," Moore said. "With the conference realignment, we definitely have some opportunities to win games and we're excited about the young group we have."

BOYS VOLLEYBALL PREVIEW



York's Jacob Wendell hits the ball Tuesday in a match against Glenbard West. Wendell is one of several key offensive players returning for the Dukes this season.

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Plenty of promise for York, AT boys

By DAN SANTAROMITA
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Most high school spring sports take place outside, but boys volleyball action is still heating up indoors. York and Addison Trail have reason to be excited about the rest of the season. Here's a look at what both teams bring to the court:

Talented Dukes squad hopes to improve on 21-win season

York returns several players from a team that went 21-15 a year ago, and coach Ken Dowdy is hyping the team's ability.

"I really like the potential of this squad," Dowdy said. "While lacking in experience in some positions, it has the greatest skill set of any team I've had in five years."

York's outside hitters should be a strength with junior returners Jake Wendell (98 kills last year) and 6-foot-4 Bobby Krissinger (166 kills, 111 blocks). Both will play the full rotation.

Senior middle Casey McNamara is another returner. Junior newcomers Jake Privett and Andrew Lewland should add to the attack as well.

Senior John Kopach takes over at setter. Senior Kevin Peronto moves from defensive specialist to libero

this season. Three others, senior Zach Mathiasen and juniors Gordon Johnson and Danny Bolivar, also drew praise from Dowdy.

"Our main goal is to put ourselves in the position to win our first regional since 2003," Dowdy said.

Senior Dickmann looks to lead Blazers to another strong season

After winning 33 matches and a regional last year, Addison Trail is hoping for even more success.

Senior outside hitter Alex Dickmann is one of the best hitters in the state, and four three-year varsity players return in outsides Johnny Valentini and Zach Vaca and middles Jack Vrchota and Kannon Nelms, a junior.

Senior Joey Nasti is the new setter and sophomore newcomer Arlind Rojba is the new libero, pushing Vaca from libero to outside hitter.

The Blazers should benefit from a new sectional assignment, which moves them from a largely northwest suburban sectional to one mostly comprised of Chicago schools.

"We have won five regionals in the past seven years and the boys are working hard to take the next step, which would be a first trip to state," coach Chad Grant said. "Expectations are higher than ever."

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